

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 573

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville on the occasion of its 200th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, presided over by the Reverend Todd Jenkins, the good people of the First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville comprise one such congregation, and they are celebrating the church's 200 years of service to the Lord and the community this year; and

WHEREAS, since 1812, the congregation, originally known as The Church of Fayetteville, lived and worked at the heart of the community, first meeting in the original log courthouse on Sundays; and

WHEREAS, rich in history, the burial grounds that surround the church hold the remains of the town's founders, Revolutionary War soldiers, and small pox victims, all of whom are sequestered in a rock-walled crypt on the north side of the church along with surveyor James Bright, who donated the land as a gift in the 1830s; and

WHEREAS, the church has faced several upheavals over the course of its history, but has remained resilient; and

WHEREAS, the church sanctuary was built in 1854 and was occupied by Union soldiers during the Civil War in the 1860s, during which time the church's basement was used to stable the Union horses; and

WHEREAS, another upheaval occurred after World War II, when stay-at-home mothers, who had donated much of their time and energies to church programs, went to work; and

WHEREAS, the church persevered through those times of change and, today, several of the families who attend the church are descendants of the original congregants; and

WHEREAS, the church congregation strives to keep its doors open to the community and welcome all who would like to participate, organizing summertime lunches twice a week for children in Fayetteville's public housing, hosting community concerts, and opening the church's Family Life Center to basketball games for any teen who wants to come two afternoons a week all year; and

WHEREAS, for 200 years, the First Presbyterian Church has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of Fayetteville; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville on the occasion of its 200th anniversary and offer our sincerest wishes for every continued success as an uplifting beacon of the Lord's good will.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.